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an answer message selecting means for requiring the user to select any of the answer examples stored by the memory means as displayed on said screen; and a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail for display on said screen by associating at least one or more portions of the contents selected by the contents selecting means with answer examples selected by the answer example selecting means.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments to the claims be entered into the record and the subject application.

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Advisory Action dated January 9, 2003. The Final nature of the Action is noted. Claims 1 to 7 are currently rejected in this case. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)


Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tso (US Patent No. 6085201). Applicant submits that the present invention comprises the following features which are not disclosed or suggested in Tso. The present invention has the function of: (1) enabling a user to select from a received mail a portion to be used directly in a reply mail; and (2) preparing a reply mail by coupling the selected contents of the received mail with the selected answer examples. Further, in the present invention, repeating the same processes more than once enables the user to prepare a reply mail including two or more groups of selected contents of the received mail coupled with selected answer samples.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) An information processing device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line, comprising:

a memory means for storing answer examples for a reply mail;

a contents selecting means for presenting a contents of received mail and requiring a user to pick therefrom at least one or more portions of contents necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail;

an answer message selecting means for requiring a user to select any of the answer examples stored by the memory means; and

a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail by coupling at least one or more portions of the contents selected by the contents selecting means with answer examples selected by the answer example selecting means.

4. (Amended) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

requiring a user to select at least one or more portions of necessary contents picked from received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples;

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means; and

preparing reply mail by coupling at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means.

5. (Amended) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

requiring a user to select at least one or more portions of necessary contents picked from received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring said user to select one of said candidate answer examples;

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means;

preparing reply mail by coupling at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with a contents stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means; and

setting a sender of the received mail as an addressee of the reply mail and a receiver of the received mail as an addresser of the reply mail.

6. (Amended) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

displaying received mail to a user on a screen;

requiring the user to select at least one or more portions of the necessary contents from the received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means on said screen and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples as a selected candidate answer;

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means; and

preparing a reply mail by associating at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means.

7. (Amended) An information processing device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line, comprising:

a screen for displaying electronic mail to a user;

a memory means for storing answer examples for a reply mail;

a contents selecting means for displaying the contents of received mail on said screen and requiring a user to pick therefrom at least one or more portions of the contents necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail;

an answer message selecting means for requiring the user to select any of the answer examples stored by the memory means as displayed on said screen; and

a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail for display on said screen by associating at least one or more portions of the contents selected by the contents selecting means with answer examples selected by the answer example selecting means.

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